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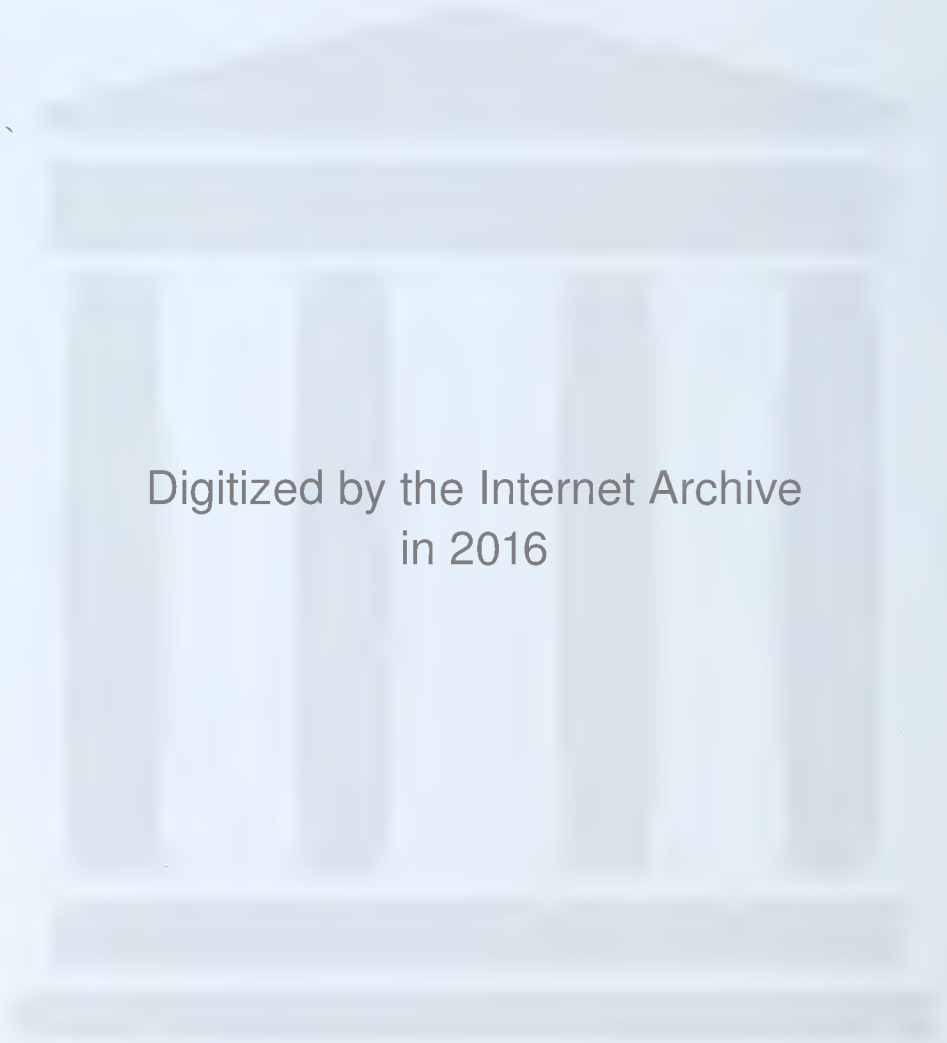
Proclamation

The State Council of Defense
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Pa.

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In the Name and By Authority of the
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Pennsylvania is facing a host of new and critical problems which are the result of the rapid march of events in all parts of the world.

Many of these new problems require for their solution either new agencies of government or new means of coordinating existing agencies.

In recognition of this need, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania recently passed, and I as Governor signed, a law authorizing your Governor in time of emergency or of public need to summon into existence a State Council of Defense.

To this Council is granted such broad authority as, in the event of such major emergencies as war, invasion or State-wide disaster, should be in the hands of a small and mobile group of properly constituted public officials.

The critical international situation, the Defense Program and the present mobilization under Selective Service have created a public need for coordination along lines of authority directly granted to the Council of Defense. Specifically there is need in Pennsylvania for coordination along defense lines of such matters as the following:

Agriculture, food supply and land use;

Consumers and consumer protection;

Housing and related facilities;

Health, hospitals and sanitation facilities;

Welfare;

Educational facilities;

Recreational areas and facilities;

Civil liberties, including, but without limitation, the protection thereof, maintenance of law and order and measures to guard against sabotage and subversive activities.

In recognition of the public need in these fields, I do, therefore, by this Proclamation and in pursuance of Act No. 3, approved March 19, 1941, establish a State Council of Defense, to have the full powers and duties granted under the Act in the aforesaid matters and in such further matters as I may, in accordance with the Act, from time to time by Proclamation designate.

The gravest perils which beset our future may not perhaps be the physical dangers of the ever-spreading and disastrous conflict now

racking the world. Still more dangerous is the insidious attack on the morale of our people. Apathy, bickering and uncertainty of purpose can do more to wreck the American ship of state or set her far adrift on uncharted seas than can the risk we run of hardship, sacrifice and even conquest itself.

The outstanding service which the State Council of Defense can render should be the reawakening of the traditional courage, fortitude and unity which have long been the birthright of all Americans. Many of our people must be impressed both with the need for service and the methods by which that service may be made effective.

It is my fervent hope that the State Council hereby created may become the inspirational voice by which Pennsylvania is to be summoned safely and proudly out of our present morass of trouble and danger to a new high ground where American traditions and America's future may clasp hands in a new era of peace, happiness and prosperity.

In the matters in which the Council is given authority by this Proclamation, I hereby call upon the men and women of Pennsylvania for full cooperation. I summon from the vast reservoir of courage and enterprise, which are Pennsylvania's inheritance, the will to work together in harmony and cooperation, which is our country's first need in its present critical hour.

I urge also that all other agencies, public and private, which in any way are concerned with the defense matters, including all State departments and officials, make their facilities fully available for the proper carrying out of the purposes set forth in this Proclamation.

To organize the response which will be forthcoming, I call attention to the fact that the law authorizes the creation of local councils of defense in each political subdivision where the executive officers or governing bodies thereof consider them to be advisable and, further, that the State Council of Defense is authorized to establish district councils in critical areas of the Commonwealth of special importance in defense activities, to function with the State Council of Defense to accomplish the purposes herein above set forth.



GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at the City of Harrisburg, this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one, and of the Commonwealth the one hundred and sixty-fifth.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

S. M. R. O'HARA
Secretary of the Commonwealth

ARTHUR H. JAMES